

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5306

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, EC
SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

REFS: (A) STATE 192120; (B) QUITO 5305

1. THIS MORNING (JULY 31) I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS TO
PRESIDENT POVEDA IN A CEREMONY IN WHICH THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS
OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (GENERALS DURAN AND
LEORO) AS WELL AS FOREIGN MINISTER AYALA PARTICIPATED.
ALTHOUGH PROTOCOL DID NOT CALL FOR FORMAL SPEECHES, FOLLOWING
THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS I HAD A BRIEF PRIVATE TALK
WITH THE PRESIDENT.

2. AFTER EXPRESSING MY APPRECIATION FOR BEING RECEIVED SO
SOON AFTER MY ARRIVAL AND PLEDGING MY BEST EFFORTS TO
MAINTAIN THE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I
CONVEYED TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE SUPREME COUNCIL THE GREAT
SATISFACTION IN HIGH USG CIRCLES OVER THE EXEMPLARY MANNER
IN WHICH THE PROCESS FOR DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT IS BEING
CARRIED OUT IN ECUADOR. I ASSURED PRESIDENT POVEDA THAT MY
GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS THE GOE IN THIS PROCESS. IN
THIS CONTEXT I WAS ALSO ABLE TO RAISE THE MATTER OF U.S.
RELATIONS WITH BOLIVIA (REF A). I MENTIONED THE EFFECT
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT COUNTRY ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS
WHILE EMPHASIZING OUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP COUNTRIES
SUCH AS ECUADOR THAT HAVE TAKEN FIRM AND POSITIVE STEPS
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TOWARDS DEMOCRATIC RULE.

3. THE PRESIDENT WAS CORDIAL IN HIS REPLY, WISHING ME
SUCCESS IN MY MISSION AND STRESSING THE DESIRE AND
IMPORTANCE FOR ECUADOR TO HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE
U.S. HE ALLUDED TO BOLIVIA SAYING THE GOE WAS ALSO
WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT SISTER BOLIVARIAN

REPUBLIC. CONCENTRATING HIS REMARKS ON THE ECUADOREAN RETORNO PROCESS, POVEDA WAS EMPHATIC IN REITERATING THE DETERMINATION OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT TO SEE THE PROCESS CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY PURSUANT TO THEIR WELL-KNOWN PLAN. WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFICS, HE INDICATED THAT THE GOE WOULD RETAIN FLEXIBILITY TO CORRECT SLIGHT IMPERFECTIONS IN THE PLAN BUT THAT THIS WOULD NOT DETRACT FROM THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF RESTORING CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT TO ECUADOR.

4. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE ME WITHIN THREE WORKING DAYS OF MY ARRIVAL AND THE CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY IS INDICATIVE OF THE IMPORTANCE THE GOE ATTACHES TO CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE U.S., PARTICULARLY DURING THIS STILL POLITICALLY DELICATE PERIOD FOLLOWING THEIR FIRST ROUND OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. I BELIEVE THAT EXPRESSIONS OF USG SUPPORT FOR THEIR PROCESS ARE NOT ONLY SINCERELY APPRECIATED BUT ALSO HELPFUL AT THIS STAGE WHEN SOME POLITICAL STIRRINGS ARE BEING MANIFESTED (REF B). WHILE MY REMARKS ABOUT BOLIVIA WERE MOST CIRCUMSPECT, THE SUPREME COUNCIL WILL CERTAINLY SEE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR ECUADOR OF A SIMILAR ADVENTURE AND THEREFORE THEY MAY HAVE HAD A SALUTARY EFFECT. FINALLY, I HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE SOME TANGIBLE WAYS BY WHICH WE WILL BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE GOE

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THAT WE ARE SINCERE IN OUR EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.
GONZALEZ

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